Procurement of Iron-ore

1176. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that MMTC has decided to reduce the procurement of iron-ore from non-captive mines by 50 per cent;

(b) whether this would lead to the closure of many non-captive iron-ore mines in the country and thousands of workers will be thrown out of employment ; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to revise the decision and avert crisis in the iron-ore industry in general and non-captive mines in particular ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) MMTC had reduced procurement of iron ore in the Eastern Sector during 1988-89 due to lower volume of exports through Paradip port during 1987-88 and consequent large build up of stocks at this port. No such decision has been taken for the current year.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Setting up of Steel Project at Nayagarh, Orissa

1177. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Orissa has requested to grant letter of intent to IPICOL for the establishment of a five lakh tonnes capacity steel project at Nayagarh in Keonjhar district, Orissa;

(b) whether Government have examined the proposal ; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to issue the letter of intent to IPICOL for setting up of that steel project at Nayagarh ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c) M/s. Industrial Development Corporation of Orissa Limited (IDCOL and not IPICOL) had applied for grant of a licence for manufacture of hot rolled strips/coils, seamless steel tubes and seamless steel round billets for a total capacity of 4,74,400 tonnes per annum in Keonjhar (Orissa). This application was rejected as the proposal was not in conformity with the licensing policy guidelines. They have, however, been advised to reframe the proposals in line with our policy.

Million Wells Scheme for Marginal and Small Farmers

1178. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the million wells scheme of Government is proposed to be extended to the poor, marginal and small farmers of the country other than Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes ;

(b) whether Government have prepared any scheme for that purpose; and

(c) if so, when that scheme is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.